GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3382
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2004
MONOPOLY OF CABLE OPERATORS
A.P. JITHENDER REDDY;BHASKAR RAO PATIL;CHARAN DAS MAHANT;KAMBALAPADU E. KRISHNAMURTHY

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has taken a decisionto break the monopoly of Cable Operators as reported in the Statesman dated January 22, 2004; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) and (b): The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has decided to evolve appropriate policies for orderly growth of the cable and broadcasting services in the country. For this purpose, it has issued a `Consultation Note` which is aimed at a meaningful examination of various issues involved in implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS), standard rates andconditions at which services are to be provided by the cable operators to the consumers, etc. The TRAI has invited comments and other inputs from the stakeholders to formulate a more detailed consultation paper on this issue.

To bring some certainty in the rates prevailing for cable services, TRAI has specified as ceilings the rates at which the charges will be paid by cable subscribers to cable operators, by cable operators to Multi-System Operators (MSOs) and by cable operators/MSOs. to Broadcasters, as those prevailing on 26th December, 2003, with respect to both Free-to-Air (FTA)and pay channels [for both CAS and non-CAS areas]. This order will stand until a final determination.